

It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section 590.021, RSMo, to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any initiative petition with any name other than his or her own, or knowingly to sign his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or to sign a petition when such person knows he or she is not a registered voter.

County: _____
Page No: _____

INITIATIVE PETITION

To the Honorable Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State for the state of Missouri:
We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of Missouri and _____ County (or City of St. Louis), respectfully order that the following proposed amendment to the constitution shall be submitted to the voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval or rejection, at the general election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026, and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition. I am a registered voter of the state of Missouri and _____ County (or City of St. Louis); my registered voting address and the name of the city, town or village in which I live are correctly written after my name.

[OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE]

CIRCULATORS AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF MISSOURI, COUNTY OF _____, I, _____ being first duly sworn, say (print names of signers)

NAME (Signature)	DATE Signed	REGISTERED VOTING ADDRESS (Number)(Street), (City, Town Or Village)	ZIP CODE	CONG. DIST.	NAME (Printed or Typed)
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

signed this page of the foregoing petition, and each of them signed his or her name thereto in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or her name, registered voting address and city, town or village correctly, and that each signer is a registered voter of the state of Missouri and _____ County (or city of St. Louis). FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF, OR PLED GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING FORGERY. I am at least 18 years of age. I do _____ do not _____ (check one) expect to be paid for circulating this petition. If paid, list the payer: _____

Signature of Affiant (Person obtaining signatures) _____ Street Address of Affiant _____
Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____

Printed Name of Affiant _____ City, State and Zip Code of Affiant _____
Signature of Notary _____ Address of Notary _____
Notary Public (Seal) _____
My commission expires _____

RECEIVED
2025 JUL 15 AM 8:19
MO. SEC OF STATE
Denny Hoskins

Be it resolved by the people of the state of Missouri that the Constitution be amended:

Article III of the Constitution is revised by adopting seven new Sections to be known as Sections 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 61 to read as follows:

Section 54.

1. Ballot summaries shall be clear, unbiased, fair, accurate, and easily understood, as provided in this section.
2. Official ballot summaries, including the summary statement and fiscal note summary, for any law or constitutional amendment proposed by initiative or referendum petition or referred or proposed by the general assembly shall be completely clear, unbiased, accurate, and easily understood, notwithstanding any law to the contrary. Such official ballot summaries shall not be misleading, and shall correctly and fairly express the true intent and meaning of the measure and shall unambiguously state the principle of the provision sought to be added, amended, or repealed. Such official ballot summaries shall use language from the full text of the measure or proposal when doing so does not impede compliance with the remainder of this subsection.
3. Any citizen who wishes to challenge the official ballot summary for a measure or proposal covered in subsection 1 is required to bring an action in the circuit court of Cole County within ten days after the official ballot summary is certified by the secretary of state. The court shall place such action at the head of the civil docket and give it precedence over all other civil matters. The court shall consider the petition, hear arguments, and in its decision determine whether or not to certify the official ballot summary to the secretary of state as meeting the standard set forth in subsection 1 of this Section. Any party to the suit may appeal within ten days after a circuit court decision. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the circuit court and appellate courts including the supreme court shall have the authority to immediately re-write a ballot summary that does not meet the standard set forth in this Section and certify the re-written ballot summary and order the secretary of state to place that official ballot summary on the ballot with the measure or proposal. If the action cannot be fully and finally adjudicated, including all appeals, before the last date at which a court has the authority to order an issue placed on the ballot, a court may not prevent a vote on the matter, but the challenge to the ballot summary is not moot and may still be decided. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a challenge to the language of an official ballot summary for a law or amendment by initiative or by referendum petition may not be brought after an election.
4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, an initiative or referendum petition that has been approved for circulation in accordance with the law may be circulated by petition circulators and signed by any registered voter in the state of Missouri using the ballot summary language that is certified for use at that time. All signatures gathered before any ballot summary change shall remain valid regardless of if one or more signatures were gathered prior to the alteration of the official ballot summary, and regardless of whether those signatures were gathered on petition pages that displayed what was previously the official ballot summary.
5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if a ballot summary for an initiative or referendum petition has not yet been certified, a petition may be circulated by petition circulators and signed by any registered voter in the state of Missouri using the full language of the initiative petition in lieu of a ballot summary. Once an official ballot summary has been certified, it shall be affixed to each page of the petition circulated after such certification, subject to subsection 4.

Section 55.

1. The legislature shall be prohibited from weakening citizens' direct lawmaking power, as provided in this Section.
2. As of the effective date of this Section, the legislature shall be prohibited from enacting or referring any law or proposing any constitutional amendment that weakens citizens' direct lawmaking power, as set forth in this constitution, notwithstanding section 52(a) of Article III and sections 2(a) and 2(b) of Article XII of this constitution. The phrase "weakens citizens' direct lawmaking power" shall be construed broadly, examples thereof including, but not being limited to, impeding the powers of initiative and referendum reserved to the people under this Constitution; imposing filing or processing fees for petitions; raising signature thresholds; shortening the time allowed for signature collection; narrowing allowable subject matter beyond that in this Constitution as of the effective date of this Section; imposing additional requirements on the qualifications of petition circulators beyond those in this Constitution as of the effective date of this Section; preventing or delaying judicial revision of ballot summaries, prohibiting or nullifying severability clauses in petitions; or rendering a simple statewide majority of votes cast on the measure by individual legal voters insufficient to approve or reject a law or constitutional amendment proposed by initiative or referendum petition. Further, any constitutional amendment that weakens citizens' direct lawmaking power, which is proposed by the general assembly after January 1, 2025 but before the effective date of this Section, to be submitted to voters for their approval or rejection at an election following the effective date of this Section, shall be removed from the ballot and is void.
3. The rights of initiative and referendum as set forth in this constitution are fundamental rights. Any registered voter of the state of Missouri has a right to propose laws and constitutional amendments by initiative petition and to propose the rejection of acts by the general assembly by referendum petition, to sign such petitions, to circulate such petitions, and to vote on such petitions. However, no person shall qualify as a petition circulator who has been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to an offense involving forgery under the laws of this state or an offense under the law of any other jurisdiction if that offense would be considered forgery under the laws of this state.

4. Except as specifically set forth in this constitution, any law affecting, governmental regulation of, or governmental action taken pertaining to, the fundamental rights of initiative and referendum as set forth in this constitution is subject to strict scrutiny and must be narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling governmental interest.

5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or law to the contrary, requirements existing in this Constitution as of January 1, 2025 for proposing and enacting initiative and referendum petitions and the basis for computation of signatures required for such petitions shall be maintained, as follows: a statewide majority of votes cast on the measure shall be sufficient to enact any law or constitutional amendment proposed by initiative petition; a statewide majority of votes cast on the measure shall be sufficient to reject any law upon which a referendum is ordered by referendum petition; signatures from five percent of the number of legal voters for governor in the last general election in each of two-thirds of Missouri's congressional districts shall be sufficient to propose a law; signatures from eight percent of the number of legal voters for governor in the last general election in each of two-thirds of Missouri's congressional districts shall be sufficient to propose a constitutional amendment; signatures from five percent of the number of legal voters in the last general election for governor in each of two-thirds of Missouri's congressional districts shall be sufficient to order a referendum; and the number of signatures from legal voters required shall be calculated based on the total vote for governor at the general election last preceding the filing of any petition. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any law or constitutional amendment referred to voters shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast thereon, and not otherwise. The total vote for governor at the general election last preceding the filing of any initiative or referendum petition shall be used to determine the number of legal voters necessary to sign the petition. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any law or constitutional amendment referred to voters, either by the legislature or petition, shall be adopted when approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon, and not otherwise.

Section 56.

1. The legislature shall be prohibited from repealing a citizen-initiated law, or from changing a citizen-initiated law, passing a law similar to one rejected by referendum petition, or proposing to repeal or change a citizen-initiated amendment unless eighty percent of the House and Senate approve a change or send it to a vote of the people, as provided in subsections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this Section.

2. As of the effective date of this Section, the legislature shall be prohibited from repealing any law enacted on or after January 1, 2018 by the people under the initiative power of this constitution, notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary.

3. As of the effective date of this Section, the legislature shall be prohibited from amending or superseding any law enacted on or after January 1, 2018, by the people under the initiative power of this constitution, unless the amending or superseding legislation furthers the purpose of the law and at least eighty percent of the members of each house of the general assembly vote to amend such law, notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary.

4. As of the effective date of this Section, the legislature shall be prohibited from passing any law similar in effect to one rejected on or after January 1, 2018 by the people under the referendum power of this constitution, notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary.

5. Notwithstanding the prohibitions in subsection 2, 3 and 4, as of the effective date of this Section, the legislature may refer a proposed law to a vote of the people on a measure which would repeal, amend, or supersede a law enacted by the people under the initiative power, or on a measure which would enact a law similar in effect to a law rejected by the people by referendum petition, but only so long as at least eighty percent of the members of each house of the general assembly, by a roll call of ayes and nays, vote to refer such a measure to the people, notwithstanding section 52(a) of Article III of this constitution.

6. As of the effective date of this Section, the legislature shall be prohibited from referring any proposed constitutional amendment that would repeal or amend or supersede any constitutional amendment adopted on or after January 1, 2018 by the people under the initiative power of this constitution, unless at least eighty percent of the members of each house of the general assembly, by a roll call of ayes and nays, vote to refer such proposed amendment to the people, notwithstanding section 2(a) of Article XII of this constitution.

7. This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the legislature of the right to introduce any measure.

Section 57.

1. In order to give ample notice to voters of issues that will appear on their ballots, the legislature shall be required to deliver a proposed law or amendment to the secretary of state at least one hundred twenty days before an election can be held on the measure, as provided in this Section:

2. Elections on any law or constitutional amendment proposed by initiative or referendum petition or referred or proposed by the legislature shall be held as set forth in this Article III and in section 2(b) of Article XII, except that the legislature must deliver laws and proposed amendments which it refers or submits to the people, for approval or rejection, to the secretary of state at least 120 days before the election on such can be held, an election on a law referred by or constitutional amendment proposed by the general assembly shall not be had sooner than 120 days after such measure or proposal is delivered to the secretary of state notwithstanding section 52(b) of Article III or section 2(b) of Article XII.

3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for laws or proposed constitutional amendments referred or proposed by the legislature, if the legislature makes an express finding by roll call vote that an election sooner than 120 days is necessary for the protection of the peace, protection of state or local governmental finances, or another bona

in a declared emergency, then an election may be held sooner than 120 days after the measure or proposal is delivered to the secretary of state. The express finding shall be subject to de novo judicial review. Any citizen shall have standing to bring an action challenging the express finding and the timing of the election.

Section 58. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the secretary of state shall make a determination on the sufficiency of the petition and issue a certificate of sufficiency or insufficiency for an initiative or referendum petition, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth Tuesday prior to the general election. If the secretary of state finds the petition insufficient, the certificate shall state the reasons for the insufficiency.

Section 59. Definitions.

1. For purposes of this Article, "citizen-initiated" shall mean placed onto the ballot using the initiative or referendum power reserved to the people in this constitution.
2. The "legislature" shall mean the general assembly.
3. "Ballot summaries" shall consist of the summary statement and the fiscal note summary.

Section 60. Sections 54 through 59 of this Article are self-executing and shall be construed to strongly protect the citizens' powers of initiative and referendum, all political power being vested in the people and founded upon their will only.

Section 61. If any provision of Sections 54 through 60 or the application thereof to anyone or to any circumstance is held invalid or unconstitutionally enacted, the remainder of those provisions and the application of such provisions to others or other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.